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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LUTHER STRANGE, a Senator from the State of Alabama.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our shield, look with favor upon us. Lord, You have told us in James 4:2 that we have not because we ask not. We therefore continue to ask You to place Your healing hand on Senator JOHN MCCAIN. Astound us with Your power.

Today, we also pray that You would guide our lawmakers around the obstacles that hinder their progress, uniting them for the common good of this great land. Lord, enable them to go from strength to strength, as they fulfill Your purposes for their lives. Striving to please You, help them to stand for right and leave the consequences to You.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2017.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable LUTHER STRANGE, a Senator from the State of Alabama, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. STRANGE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Alabama, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:03 a.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 10:11 a.m. when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR SENATOR MCCAIN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Senator MCCAIN is an American hero. He is a hero to our conference. He is a hero to our country. Here in the Senate, he is a friend to almost all of us. Our collective prayers are with him now. We are thinking of Cindy and the rest of his family as well, along with his staff and the people of Arizona.

Senator MCCAIN, as we all know, has never shied away from a fight, and I assure you he isn't going to back down now. I know the Senator from Arizona will confront this challenge with the same extraordinary courage that has characterized his entire life, and he should know that we are all in his corner, every single one of us.

We look forward to seeing our friend again soon, and we hope he will be back in the very near future.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I thank the President for having our conference over to the White House yesterday. The President and his administration understand the American people are hurting under ObamaCare. They have been long engaged in the effort to bring relief. Nobody could have been more involved in this effort than the President, the Vice President, and the entire team, with numerous phone calls and meetings. They have been all in, and I want the President and his entire team to know how much we appreciate their deep involvement in this and their commitment to getting an outcome.

Dealing with this issue is what is right for the country. The fight to move beyond the status quo of ObamaCare was certainly never going to be easy, but we have come a long way, and I look forward to continuing our work together to finally bring relief.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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